

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 13, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-6 were pending, and rejected all claims. Various claims have been amended, and thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-6 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

The Interview

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the interview granted by the Examiner on September 15, 2004. At the interview, the applicants proposed the above-identified amendments to claim 1 and the Examiner agreed that she would consider these amendments upon the filing of an Amendment. The Examiner noted that she would need to conduct a further search regarding the amended claims. By this Amendment, the remaining claims have also been amended to present features relating to presenter control. Additional points raised at the interview are also included in portions of the Remarks below.

The Rejection

Item 5 on pages 2-5 of the Office Action rejects all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,199,076 to Logan.

The Present Invention

The present invention is directed to causing a plurality of remote output terminals (such as remote computers) to play a desired output to users (listeners, watchers, etc.) at each of the terminals at essentially the same time under the control of a controller (such as a local computer). This allows a presenter, such as a teacher, to control what is presented to each of the remote output terminals, such as student computers, in a controlled, accurate and rapid manner. The control or presenter computer reviews a sequence for the presentation and for each presentation segment, outputs an address for that segment material to the user computers. The user computers use the address to obtain the segment and play it to the users. In the context of an Internet presentation, the presenter or control computer transmits an Internet

address to the remote computers and all of the remote computers retrieve the content that is played from an Internet server using the address. The present invention solves the problem of how to present material to plural users at the same time where the material may not be located where the students and teacher are located.

The Prior Art

Logan is directed to a system in which an audio player 103 issues a play request to a host server system 101 and the requested audio material is transmitted by be played by the player 103. The user of the player 103 can control the playback of the audio material by the player 103 such that the user can skip forward, skip backward, etc. The host system 101 can serve the play request based on a schedule held by the host. This schedule can be downloaded to the player 103 and the player 103 can be used to alter the schedule, such as by deleting or rearranging the order of material to be played as well as by adding material. The schedule is created for each individual user based on user selections and other preferences. The user can decide to use or not use the schedule. The material to be played, the order of playing, etc. is controlled by the user to allow the user to dynamically locate and select desired material. That is, in Logan the user is in control.

The Present Claimed Invention Patentably Distinguishes Over the Prior Art

As discussed above, in the present invention it is the presenter not the user that is in control. The present invention with the presenter in control is particularly suited for education sessions where a teacher controls the presentation of educational materials to students. Logan does not teach or suggest such a system and does not even recognize the problem solved by the present invention.

In addition, by teaching that the user is in control, Logan essentially teaches away from the present invention.

Referring to claim 1, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed slide show system including:

- a presenter controlled control unit obtaining address information defined on an information network and used by the presenter to output information on the local side computer terminal, according to a predetermined output sequence; and

an interface unit transmitting a plurality of pieces of obtained address information one by one to the remote side computer terminals, and for instructing an output of information by the remote side computers corresponding to the transmitted pieces of address information as controlled by the presenter.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of that claim, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 3, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed slide show system which includes:

an interface unit receiving a plurality of pieces of address information transmitted from a local side presenter controlled computer terminal, which are used by the presenter to output information on the local side presenter controlled computer terminal, one by one according to a predetermined output sequence; and

a control unit notifying said browser unit of a received piece of address information, and for instructing an output of information corresponding to the notified piece of address information.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 3 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 4, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed computer readable storage medium storing a program which causes a computer to execute a process for the local slide presenter controlled computer terminal which includes:

referring to a correspondence relationship between a plurality of pieces of address information selected by the presenter and defined on an information network for the local side presenter controlled computer terminal, and a sequence number representing a predetermined output sequence;

transmitting to a remote side address information the plurality of pieces of address information one by one corresponding to a current sequence number; and

instructing the remote side to output information corresponding to each transmitted piece of address information.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 5, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed computer readable storage medium storing a program which executes a process of:

receiving from a local side presenter controlled computer terminal a plurality of pieces of address information selected by the presenter and corresponding to a current sequence number, which is obtained from a correspondence relationship between the plurality of pieces of address information defined on an information network, and a sequence number representing a predetermined output sequence;

notifying a browser of each received piece of received address information; and

instructing the browser to output information corresponding to each received piece of notified address information.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 5 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 6, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed presentation process which includes:

obtaining a sequence of material segments to be presented and selected by a presenter, with the segments having corresponding storage addresses in a presenter controlled first computer;

transmitting, by a second computer, the addresses one at a time to third computers in accordance with the sequence;

retrieving, by the third computers, the segments from the
presenter controlled first computer responsive to the addresses;
and

presenting, by the third computers, the material segments to users.
Therefore, it is submitted that claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Summary

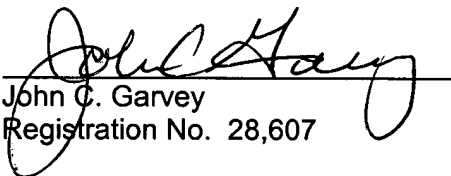
It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-30-04

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501